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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/787,013

02/25/2004

Kirsten Lauridsen

17494

3965

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EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/19/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/787,013	LAURIDSEN, KIRSTEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leslie Wong	1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-44, 46-54 and 56-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-44, 46-54 and 56-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/6/2010</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1794

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 12, 2010 has been entered.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 42-44, 46-54, 56, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Wong et al (EP 0447359), JP 7067536, and Yotka et al (US 5525360) for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last Office action. The amendments to the claims are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Wong et al (EP 0447359) teach a synergistic sweetening composition comprising polydextrose, monosaccharides, and/or disaccharides as is claimed (see entire document, especially page 9, lines 38-51).

JP 7067536 teaches the combination of polydextrose and sugar (see abstract).

Yatka et al (US 5525360) teach a composition comprising polydextrose and additional sugar compounds including sucrose and maltose (see entire document, especially claims 7 and 9).

The claims appear to differ as to the specific recitation of pH and acidity.

The pH and acidity would be no more than inherent and/or obvious to that of Wong et al, JP 7067536, and Yatka et al as these values are inherent and/or obvious to a commercially available polydextrose product. It is noted that Applicant's polydextrose is a commercially available product.

Synergism would be obvious to that of Wong et al, JP 7067536, and Yatka et al as the same components are used. It is also noted that the concept of synergism in the sweetener art is well-known and expected. Schiffman et al (Chem Senses) is cited as one example of synergism in the sweetener art (see entire document).

Claims 58-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al (EP 0447359), JP 7067536, and Yatka et al (US 5525360) for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last office action. The amendments to the claims are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Wong et al (EP 0447359), JP 7067536, and Yotka et al (US 5525360) are cited as above.

The claims differ as to the recitation of specific food products.

Once the art has recognized the use of a sweetener combination, its use and manipulation in different food products would be well-within the skill of the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use the polydextrose/sugar compositions as taught by Wong et al (EP 0447359), JP 7067536, and Yotka et al (US 5525360) in different food products as once the art recognized the use of a sweetener combination, its use and manipulation in different food products would be conventional.

In the absence of a showing of unexpected results, Applicant is using known components to obtain no more than expected results.

Applicant's arguments filed January 12, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the claimed invention excludes the need of an intense sweetener.

Wong et al teach the combination of polydextrose and a mono- or disaccharide as is claimed (see entire document, especially page 9, lines 38-51). JP 7067536 teaches the combination of polydextrose and sugar (see abstract). Yotka et al (US 5525360) teach a composition comprising polydextrose and additional sugar compounds including sucrose and maltose (see entire document, especially claims 7 and 9).

The claims do not exclude the use of an intense sweetener.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (571)272-1411. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Leslie Wong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

LAW
February 16, 2010